

TEXAS

— IN THE —

CIVIL WAR

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TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

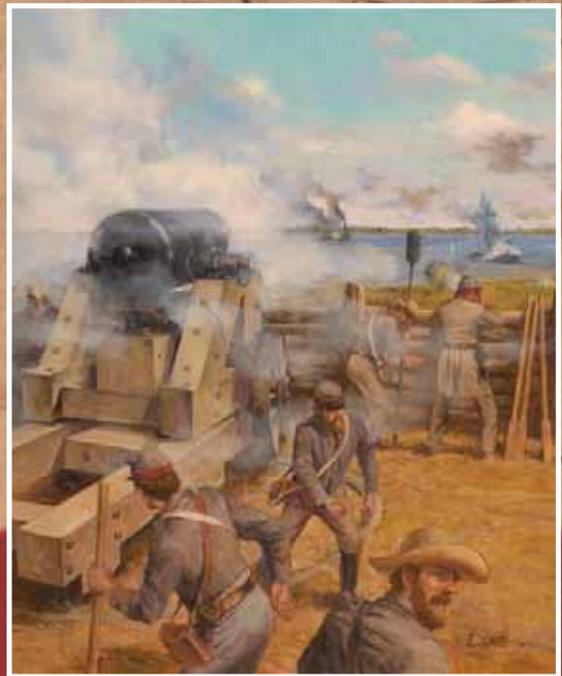
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Our Mission

To protect and preserve the state's historic and prehistoric resources for the use, education, enjoyment, and economic benefit of present and future generations.

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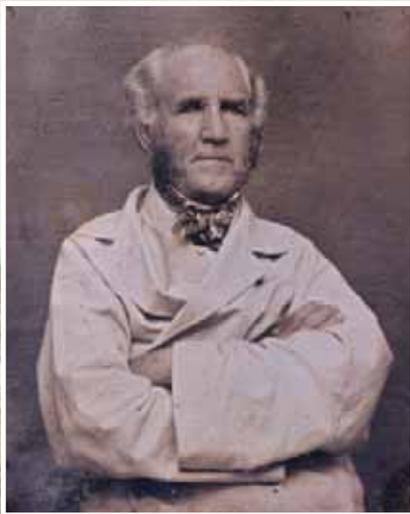
**STORIES OF SACRIFICE,
VALOR, AND HOPE**

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Texas in the Civil War

The United States was rife with conflict and controversy in the years leading to the Civil War. Perhaps nowhere was the struggle more complex than in Texas. Some Texans supported the Union, but were concerned about political attacks on Southern institutions. Texas had been part of the United States just 15 years when secessionists prevailed in a statewide election. Texas formally seceded on March 2, 1861 to become the seventh state in the new Confederacy. Gov. Sam Houston was against secession, and struggled with loyalties to both his nation and his adopted state. His firm belief in the Union cost him his office when he refused to take an oath of allegiance to the new government.

March 2, 1861



Gov. Sam Houston refused to declare loyalty to the Confederacy and was removed from office by the Texas secession convention in March 1861.



Tensions were high when the Civil War began, and Texans responded in impressive numbers. By the end of 1861, more than 25,000 had joined the Confederate army. During the course of the war, nearly 90,000 Texans served in the military. The National Park Service estimates that by war's end more than 20,000 Hispanics fought in the Civil War nationwide: some for the Union and some for the Confederacy. Thousands more civilians lent hearts and hands on the home front. They distinguished themselves in every major campaign of the war from New Mexico to Pennsylvania. Texas forces figured prominently at celebrated battle sites such as Gettysburg, Antietam, Second Manassas, Wilson's Creek, The Wilderness, Vicksburg, Corinth, Shiloh, Chickamauga, Glorieta Pass, Pea Ridge, Gaine's Mill, Franklin, and Mansfield. Leaders of the Texas forces included legendary figures John Bell Hood, Albert Sidney Johnston, John Bankhead Magruder, Patrick Cleburne, and Ben McCulloch.

In Texas, Confederate and state forces repulsed Union invaders at Brownsville, Sabine Pass, Galveston, Corpus Christi, and Laredo, and sustained naval bombardments in several coastal areas. They fought frontier and border raiders, evaded federal blockades, protected internal trade routes and operated prisoner of war camps.

The Civil War came to an end in Texas. Soldiers fought the last land battle at Palmito Ranch near Brownsville more than a month after Gen. Robert E. Lee surrendered to Gen. Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Court House in Virginia. The surrender of the Trans-Mississippi Department of the Confederacy at Galveston on June 2, 1865 was, as Capt. Benjamin Franklin Sands of the United States Navy noted, "the closing act of the Great Rebellion." Just a few weeks later on June 19, Gen. Gordon Granger, commander of U.S. troops in Texas, arrived in Galveston and ended slavery in Texas by issuing an order that the Emancipation Proclamation was in effect in Texas later to become known as Juneteenth.



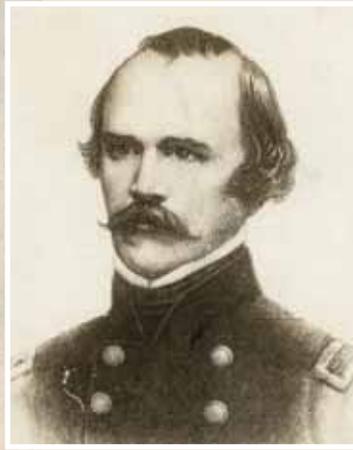
On February 16, 1861, U.S. Gen. David Twiggs surrendered all United States military posts in Texas, including his San Antonio headquarters to the Texas Committee of Public Safety.

The Civil War was a major turning point in American history. Our growing nation was deeply divided, and the resulting battles are legendary. The end of slavery and the beginning of Reconstruction marked a new era for the nation.

Texas played an important role in the war, and many historic sites, museums, monuments and cemeteries tell the stories. The Texas Historical Commission (THC) created this brochure to encourage travelers to explore sites related to Texas' Civil War history. ★

The Civil War was a major turning point in American history.

Gen. Albert Sidney Johnston of Texas was considered one of the South's most promising officers at the time of his death in 1862 on the battlefield at Shiloh, Tennessee.



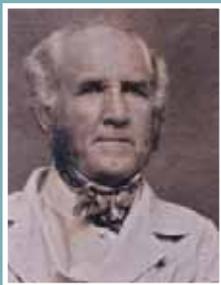
I am making a Southern Confederacy Flag. It has a blue centre with 7 stars of white in a circle and two red and one white stripes. Tomorrow the Legislature of Texas convenes, and it is to be raised tomorrow, as soon as we can get it done. The Lone Star Flag has been flying ever since Lincoln's election was confirmed. We will soon need to add more stars...

— E. A. COLEMAN, 1861

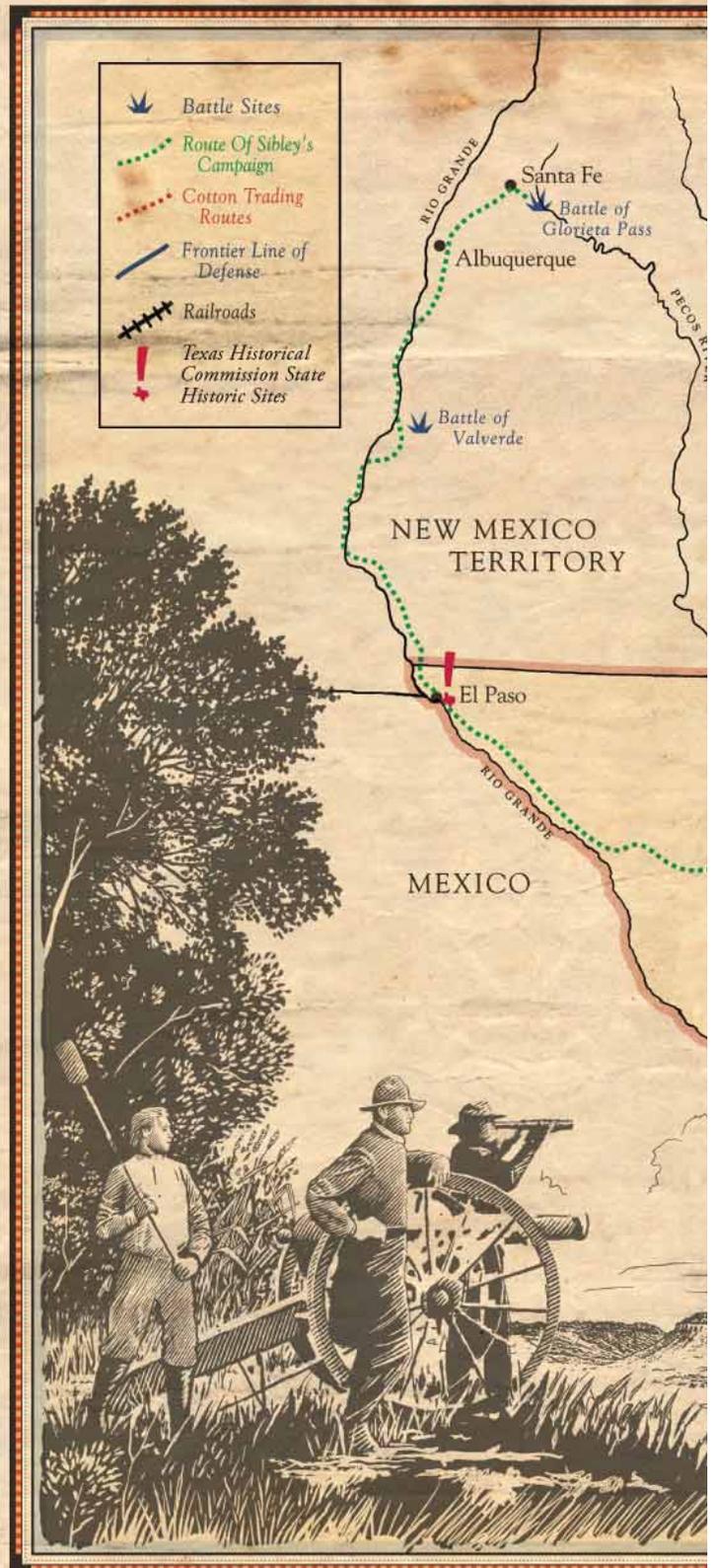
In an 1861 letter to her sister, E.A. Coleman of Texas described the Confederate First National flag, shown below.



Let me tell you what is coming. You may alter the sacrifice of countless millions of treasures and hundreds of thousands of precious lives, win Southern Independence, but I doubt it. The North is determined to preserve this Union. They are not a fiery impulsive people as you are, for they live in colder climates. But when they begin to move in a given direction, they move with the steady momentum and perseverance of a mighty avalanche.



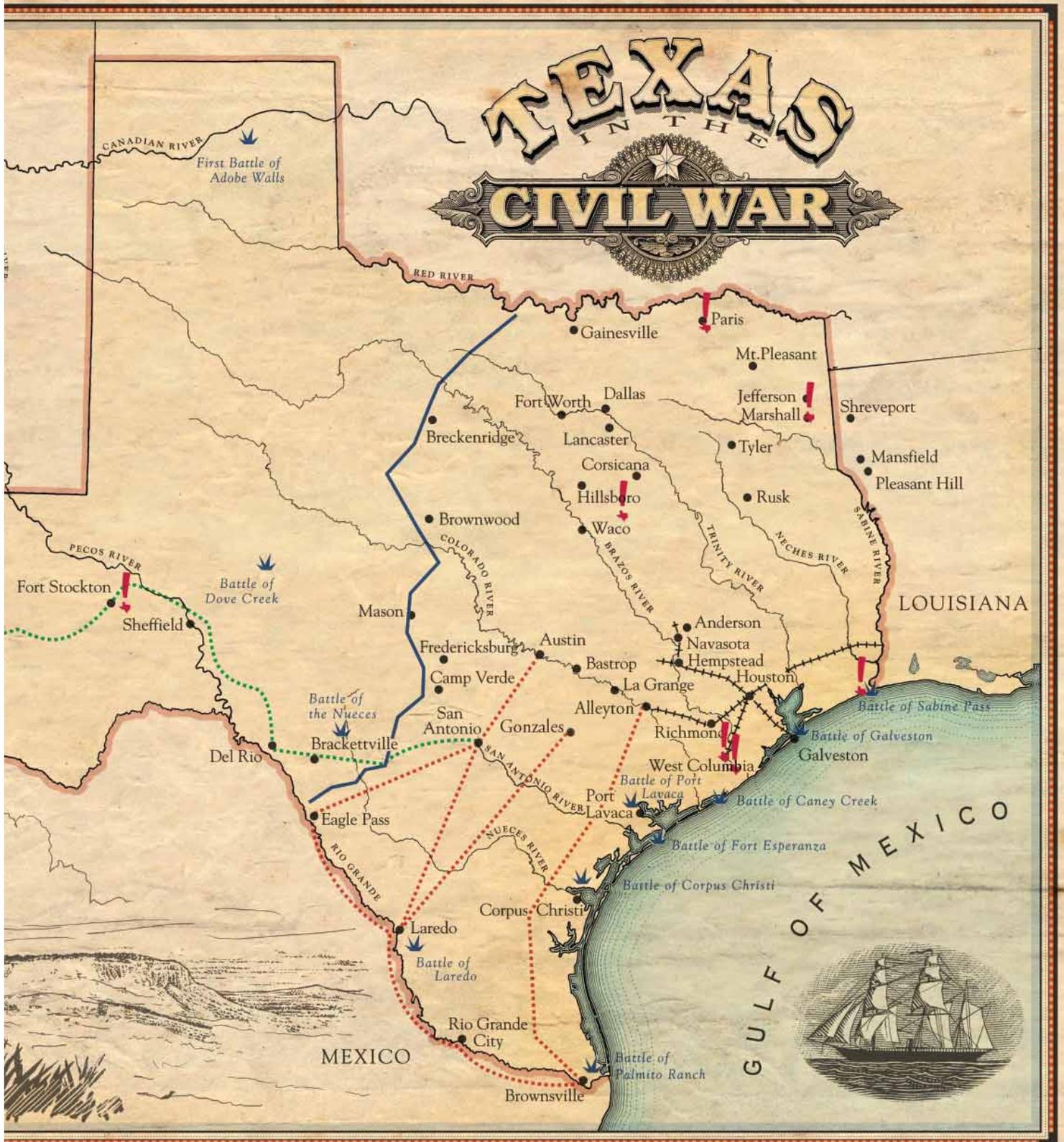
From an 1861 speech by Gov. Sam Houston at Galveston, a few days prior to passage of the Ordinance of Secession.



TEXAS

IN THE

CIVIL WAR



PROTECTING THE FRONTIER

After the removal of United States troops from Texas military installations, the state and the Confederacy assumed responsibility for the protection of the frontier. The First Regiment, Texas Mounted Riflemen, were mustered into Confederate service early in 1861 to patrol the frontier along a line of forts from the Red River to the Rio Grande. Though the unit was effective in controlling Indian raids in the region, their enlistment expired in April 1862.

The Frontier Regiment filled the void left by the First Regiment by establishing 16 camps just west of the line of settlements. The original outposts were approximately 25 miles apart and staffed with at least 25 men. Though patrols were established between posts, the Indians rapidly became comfortable with the system and increased the frequency of their raids.



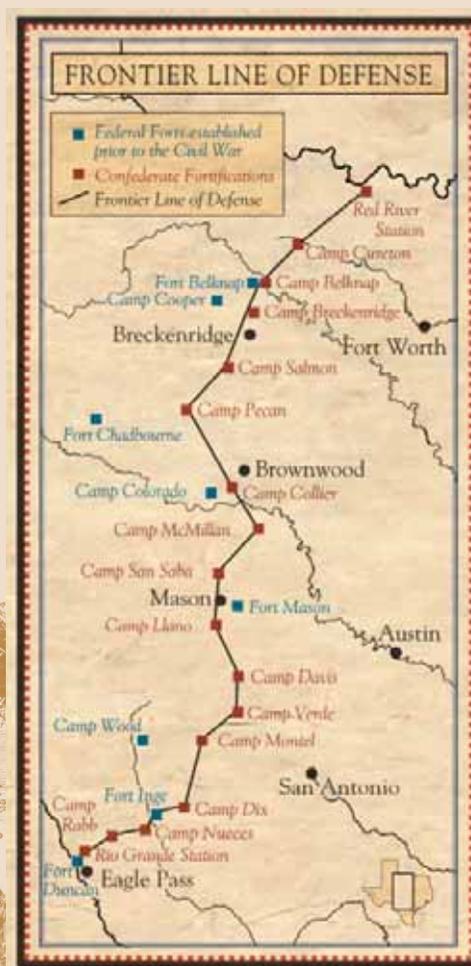
FRANCIS R. LUBBOCK

South Carolina native Francis R. Lubbock, who became governor of Texas in 1861, was a strong supporter of the Confederacy. During his two-year term of office, he advocated conscription to marshal Texas Confederate forces, mobilized troops to defend the frontier, and expanded industrial and financial resources for the war effort. Lubbock joined the Confederate Army, eventually serving as aide-de-camp to Confederate President Jefferson Davis, with whom he was captured by federal authorities at the conclusion of the war. He returned to Texas, where he served as state treasurer, and died in Austin in 1905.

Although the state wished to turn the regiment over to the Confederacy for financial reasons, they were afraid the unit would depart and leave the frontier settlements in jeopardy. The Frontier Regiment transferred in March 1864, when local companies of men formed the Frontier Organization to provide support. At this point, the Frontier Organization assumed primary responsibility for protection of the Texas frontier.

The organization deterred, but could not prevent, Indian attacks. A particularly vicious raid by Kiowas and Comanches in 1864 left a dozen Texans dead and seven captured. The raid occurred along Elm Creek in Young County during the fall of 1864. Despite the Indian threat, frontier troops spent more time enforcing Confederate conscription laws, arresting deserters, controlling Unionist activity, and chasing renegades and outlaws.

The First Regiment patrolled the frontier along a line of forts from the Red River to the Rio Grande.



FRONTIER REGIMENT

PROTECTING THE FRONTIER

THE FIRST BATTLE OF ADOBE WALLS

Adobe Walls was the name of a trading post in the Texas Panhandle, just north of the Canadian River. On November 25, 1864, the largest battle between the U.S. Army and American Indians in Texas during the Civil War took place near the ruins. Approximately 3,000 Comanches, Kiowas, and an assortment of other tribes met 372 U.S. Army soldiers under Colonel Christopher 'Kit' Carson. Although Carson's command conducted a strong defense, the Indians won the battle, driving the soldiers from the field. ★

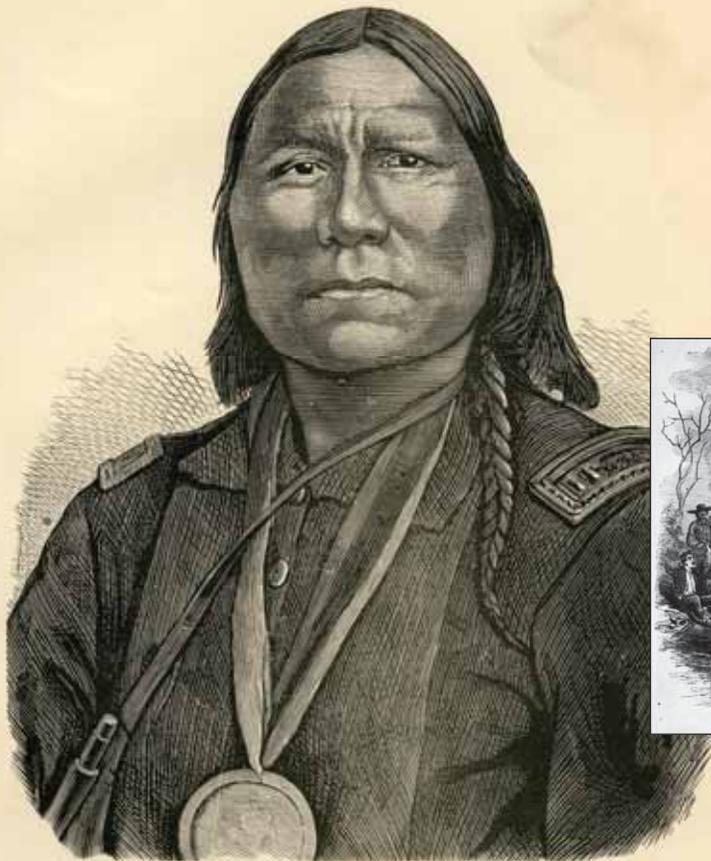
DOVE CREEK BATTLE

On January 8, 1865, Confederate troops and Texas militiamen engaged a large party of Kickapoo Indians. The Indians, formerly hostile to the South, had entered Texas and were making their way to Mexico. Troops attacked and, following five hours of desperate fighting, withdrew having suffered the loss of 22 killed and 19 wounded.



1861-64

During the war, a reduced military presence on the Texas frontier left area settlements vulnerable to raids by native Americans. Among those who led attacks against isolated farms and ranches was the noted Kiowa chief, Satanta (left).



WHITE BEAR (SE-TI-TAH, SATANTA), KIOWA CHIEF.



This engraving (above) was published in the June 15, 1861 edition of Harper's Weekly. It provided a rare glimpse of the military presence along the Texas frontier, depicting Confederate troops with stolen wagons at Las Moras Creek, Fort Clark (present day Brackettville).

PRO-UNION SENTIMENT IN TEXAS

Tragically, pro-Union sentiment in Texas ended in the loss of lives. Two examples of this untold part of Texas history occurred at the following locations.



BATTLE OF THE NUECES

By 1860, Comfort was home to many German immigrants. These new citizens took loyalty to their new country very seriously and sided with the Union during the Civil War. In an effort to escape Confederate rule and persecution, a group of about 65 settlers left for Mexico. Confederate forces pursued the party, killing 19 and wounding nine in the attack known as the Battle of the Nueces. The nine captives were executed hours after the battle. Seventeen others died

in later fighting. The remaining men reached Mexico and some went on to join the Union Army. After the war, the remains of 36 of the slain were recovered and buried in Comfort. The Treue der Union (True to the Union) monument was erected on the burial site in memory of these heroic martyrs to the Union cause. In 1991, local preservationists gained the required U.S. Congressional approval for the flag of the period, which features 36 stars, to fly over the site at half-mast in perpetuity.



Illustration of the Great Hanging at Gainesville, October 1862

Facing the threat of invasion from the north and fearing a Unionist uprising in their midst, some people in North Texas lived in constant dread during the Civil War. Word of a "Peace Party" of Union sympathizers, sworn to destroy their government, kill their leaders, and bring in Federal troops caused great alarm in Cooke and neighboring counties. Spies joined the "Peace Party" to discover its members and details of their plans. Citizens loyal to the Confederacy determined to destroy the order; and on the morning of October 1, 1862, there were widespread arrests. Fear of rescue by "Peace Party" members brought troops and militia to Gainesville, where the prisoners were assembled, and hastened action by the citizens committee. At a meeting of Cooke County citizens, with Colonel W. C. Young presiding, it was unanimously resolved to establish a Citizens Court and to have the Chairman choose a committee to select a jury. Sixty-eight men were brought speedily before the court, 39 were found guilty of conspiracy and insurrection, sentenced, and immediately hanged. Three other prisoners who were members of military units were allowed trial by court martial at their request and were subsequently hanged by its order. Two others broke from their guard and were shot and killed.

In both cases, Texans fought Texans and by 1863, most dissenters either learned to keep quiet or packed up for Mexico, New Orleans, or the West.

Left: Engraving of the funeral of German patriots at Comfort, August 20, 1865

TIMELINE FOR THE WAR

1860

1861

1862

1863

1864

1865

1866

TEXAS

Texas votes with 10 other slave states for Southern Democrat John C. Breckinridge in the presidential election.

February 18 U.S. Gen. David E. Twiggs surrenders all U.S. military posts in Texas.

March 2 Texas formally secedes from the United States.

March 5 Texas secession convention passes the ordinance uniting Texas with the Confederate States of America.

March 16 Gov. Sam Houston removed from office by action of the convention.

July 2 Galveston blockade initiated by *USS South Carolina*.

August 10 Battle of the Nueces, Kinney County, between Confederates and Hill Country Unionists.

October 1-20 Confederates capture and hang suspected Union sympathizers in Cooke County and surrounding area. Forty die in the event known as the Great Hanging at Gainesville.

October 8 Federal forces capture Galveston.

January 1 Battle of Galveston. Confederates regain control of the city.

September 8 Battle of Sabine Pass. A small unit led by Lt. Dick Dowling repulses Federal force under Gen. William B. Franklin.

November 2-6 Federal army and navy occupy Brazos Island and Brownsville.

March-May Texas troops amass in Northeast Texas around Marshall and Tyler to join Confederate action in the Red River campaign in Western Louisiana. Intense fighting at Mansfield, Pleasant Hill and other sites help repulse federal invasion of Gen. Nathaniel Banks.

March 19 Federal attack on Laredo.

July 30 Confederate forces re-occupy Brownsville.

May 13 Battle of Palmito Ranch (near Brownsville), the last land battle of the Civil War.

June 2 Gen. E. Kirby Smith, Confederate States of America, surrenders the Trans-Mississippi Department at Galveston.

June 19 U.S. Gen. Gordon Granger, commander of U.S. troops in Texas, arrives in Galveston and orders the enforcement of the Emancipation Proclamation, thereby ending slavery in Texas. The event is later celebrated as Juneteenth.

UNITED STATES

November 6 Abraham Lincoln elected 16th president of the United States.

April 12 Southern forces fire on Fort Sumter in Charleston harbor, South Carolina.

July 21 First Battle of Bull Run (Manassas), Virginia.

February 21 Gen. Sibley's Brigade defeats Federal forces at Valverde, New Mexico.

March 28 Battle of Glorieta Pass, New Mexico. Both sides claim victory, but the Confederates are forced to return to Texas following the destruction of supply reserves.

April 6-7 Battle of Shiloh, Tennessee. Gen. Albert Sidney Johnston of Texas killed on the first day.

August 29-30 Second Battle of Bull Run (Manassas), Virginia.

September 17 Battle of Antietam (Sharpsburg), Maryland.

May 10 Death of Stonewall Jackson eight days after being wounded in the Battle of Chancellorsville, Virginia.

July 1-3 Battle of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

July 4 The fall of Vicksburg, Mississippi.

September 29-30 Battle of Chickamauga, Georgia.

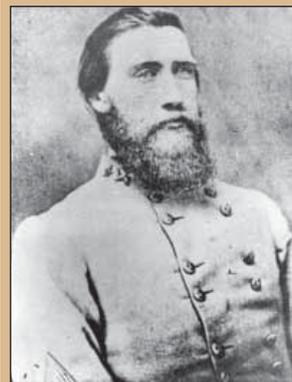
September 1 The fall of Atlanta, Georgia.

April 9 Gen. Robert E. Lee surrenders to Gen. Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Court House, Virginia.

April 14 President Abraham Lincoln shot at Ford's Theater, Washington, D.C.

January 19 President Andrew Johnson, declaring that "the insurrection in the State of Texas has been completely and everywhere suppressed and ended," officially ended the Civil War by issuing a proclamation of peace between the United States and Texas.

April 2 Johnson declared a state of peace between the U.S. and the other 10 Confederate States.



The celebrated "Gallant Hood," who led his Texas Brigade at Gaines Mill, Second Manassas, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Gettysburg, and Chickamauga.

THE SIBLEY CAMPAIGN

Early in the war, the New Mexico Territory was an appealing area for Confederate acquisition. The territory, dotted with Union-occupied military posts, posed an uncomfortable threat to El Paso, Fort Bliss, and far West Texas. Furthermore, its vast mineral and military resources would boost the Southern cause.

Lt. Col. John R. Baylor and 300 soldiers of the Second Texas Rifles attempted to flush the federals from New Mexico. Though Baylor removed the small number of Union troops from the southern area, additional soldiers were needed to control the territory. As a result, Jefferson Davis authorized Gen. Henry H. Sibley to organize three regiments in San Antonio and to march west.



Sibley's battle plan was to triumph over the Southwest, from New Mexico to California. In the fall of 1861, he led the 4th, 5th, and 7th Texas Mounted Volunteers to Fort Bliss near El Paso via forts Inge, Clark, Judson, Lancaster, Stockton, Davis, and Quitman. In El Paso, Lt. Col. Baylor's command was incorporated into the brigade.

During the first months of 1862, Sibley began his invasion by moving north along the Rio Grande. Against superior odds, he secured a tenuous victory at Valverde and pressed north through Albuquerque en route to Fort Union.

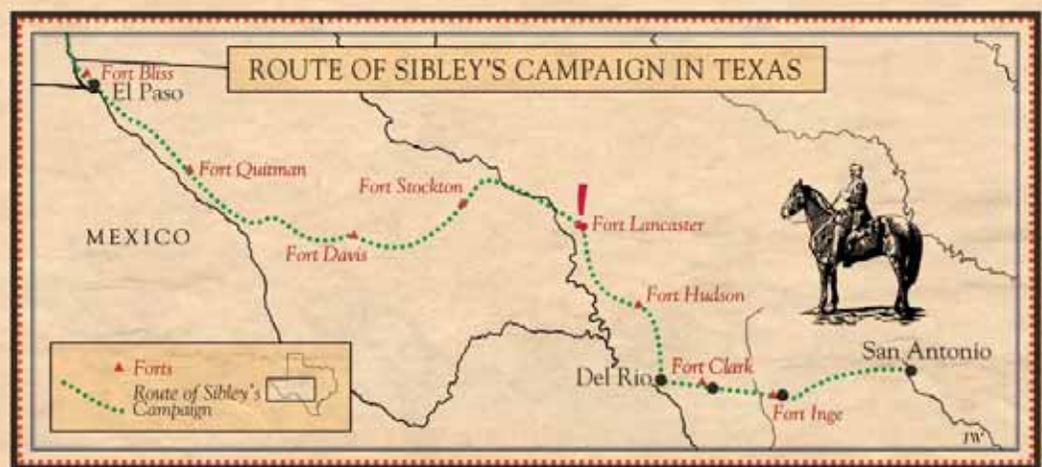
Unfortunately, the Texans were not so successful in the Battle of Glorieta Pass. Sibley's men, under the command of Lt. Col. William R. Scurry, pushed back the United States' troops southwest of Fort Union, but not before the Confederate supply train was destroyed. After determining the land could not provide enough forage for an invading army, Scurry retreated. The surviving troops returned to Texas sick and defeated, leaving El Paso and much of West Texas to the Union army. Sibley's New Mexico campaign would represent the "high-water mark" of the Confederacy in the West. ★



Gen. Henry H. Sibley, shown in his Confederate uniform, led Texas forces in an ultimately unsuccessful expedition to bring the New Mexico-Arizona Territories under Southern control.

Sibley's Expedition stopped at Fort Lancaster depicted in this 1861 Harper's Weekly engraving, en route to engagements against Union forces in the New Mexico-Arizona territories in 1862.

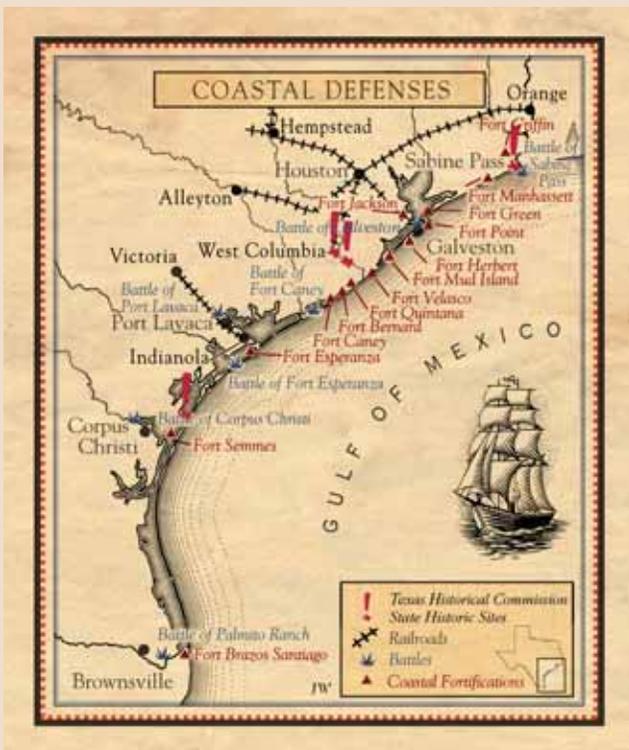
Today, the ruins of Fort Lancaster's company K. Enlisted Men's barracks (above) are administered by the THC.



DEFENDING THE COAST

From the onset of the Civil War, the Confederacy recognized that Texas' expanse of coastline was vulnerable to invasion. Before a defense plan could be implemented, President Abraham Lincoln ordered a naval blockade of the Southern coast. In July 1861, the federal warship *USS South Carolina* appeared off Galveston harbor. Although the number of Union blockaders grew modestly during 1861, they never aggressively attacked. The delay allowed Confederate troops and artillery to fortify the Texas coast.

Meanwhile, blockade runners skillfully slipped past United States warships to exchange Southern cotton for essential goods in foreign ports. Blockading forces chased and detained ships, confiscated cargo, and bombarded seaports. Blockade runners eluded capture by taking advantage of barrier islands, dense fog, dark nights, and foreign registrations. When the blockade finally tightened, overland freighters increased traffic to the Mexican border.



BATTLE OF CORPUS CHRISTI

On August 16 and 18, 1862, three Confederate artillery pieces held off four attacking Federal ships during the Civil War bombardment of Corpus Christi. The Union blockading squadron had harassed the southern coastal trade inside the offshore islands since February. The squadron gained control of Aransas Bay in July, halting water traffic in the shallow bays, and entered Corpus Christi Bay on August 12. Women and children were evacuated during a forty-eight hour truce and the Confederates threw up breastworks for the artillery on the night of August 15. On August 16, the Federal ships and Confederate shore battery exchanged hundreds of shells before the Federals withdrew. The Federal ships returned August 18, landing sailors and a howitzer north of the Confederate battery. The sailors dragged the howitzer within range of the battery and began firing. Confederate infantry, led by Major A.M. Hobby, charged the Federal position. Captain James A. Ware's cavalry joined the assault, forcing the Federals to withdraw. On November 17, 1863, Federal troops under General Nathaniel P. Banks captured Mustang Island to the east and held it for seven months.



Blockade runners eluded capture by taking advantage of barrier islands, dense fog, dark nights and foreign registrations.



DEFENDING THE COAST



Confederate Gen. John Bankhead Magruder led the Confederate assault at Galveston on January 1, 1863.

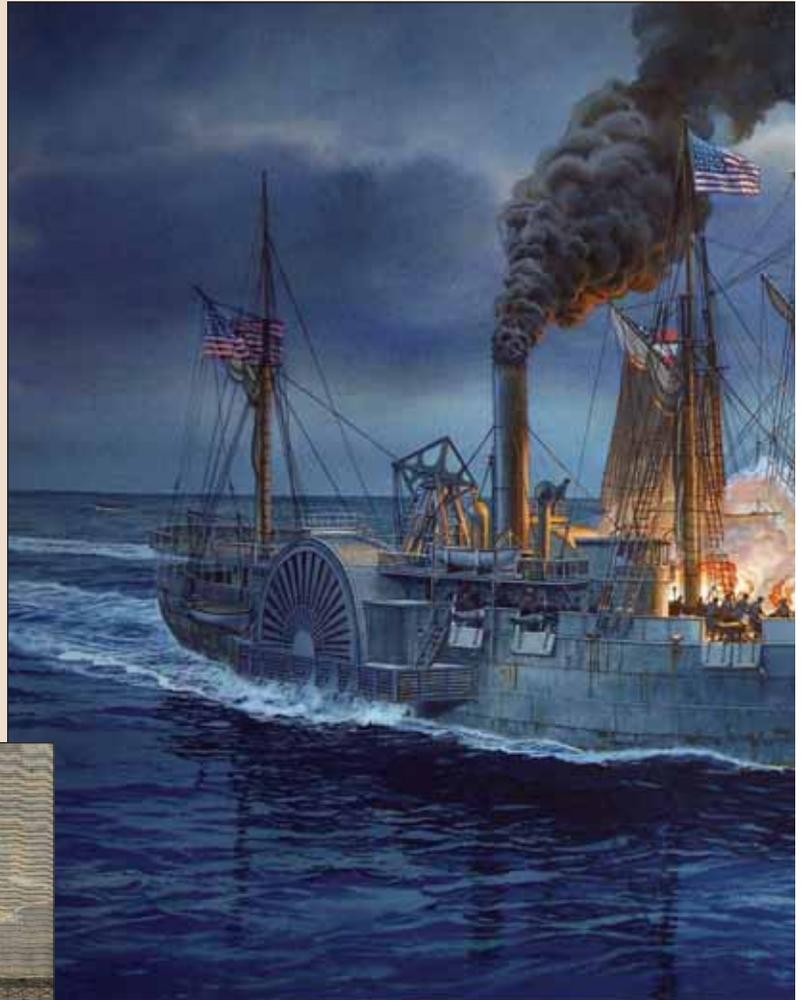
As the war progressed, skirmishes occurred up and down the Texas shoreline. U.S. forces captured Galveston in October 1862. Three months later, the small Union force was unable to defend the island against Confederate assaults by land and water.

The THC's marine archeology program has long been involved with efforts to explore the gulf's rich maritime history, which spans more than 500 years.

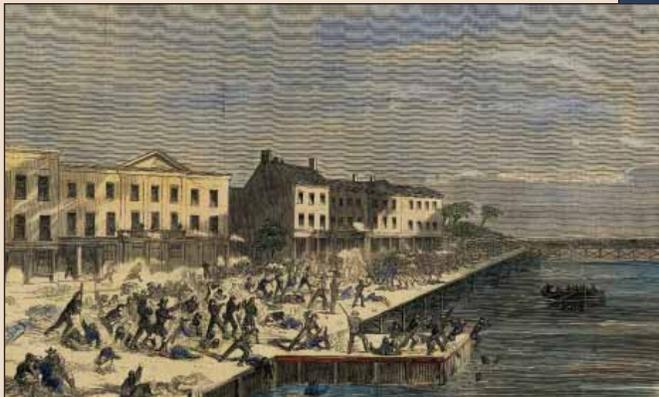
Evidence of this history remains wrecked on the seafloor, including ships of commerce

and exploration, along with vessels of war, privateers, and pirates. In early January 1863, the 210-foot steam warship *USS Hatteras* was stationed off Galveston during the Union bombardment of the city. Galveston had recently been recaptured by Confederate forces at the Battle of Galveston on January 1. When the *Hatteras* ventured into the gulf in pursuit of an unknown vessel on the evening of January 11, the ship's crew discovered it was the infamous Confederate raider *CSS Alabama*. *Hatteras* was disabled during a brief exchange of cannon fire, and sank in less than 15 minutes with the loss of two lives. This was the only naval battle during the Civil War to occur offshore in the Gulf of Mexico, and the only U.S. warship sunk at sea by Confederate forces during the war.

The Hatteras was the only U.S. warship sunk at sea by Confederate forces during the war.



Above: "The Fatal Chase" by Tom Freeman.
Right: Illustration of Lt. Richard "Dick" Dowling and the Davis Guards, First Texas Heavy Artillery Regiment defending Fort Griffin from the Union assault during the Second Battle of Sabine Pass, September 1863



This January 31, 1863 engraving from Harper's Weekly depicts the Battle of Galveston earlier that month.

Southern victory in the Battle of Galveston did not stop determined federals from bombarding other coastal defenses. Brownsville, Fort Esperanza and Indianola fell under Union control briefly. However, the southern half of the Texas coast was virtually abandoned when military focus shifted to the Red River campaign in Louisiana. Harassment of commerce along the Texas coast continued until war's end, but Union forces never regained a convincing hold on Texas soil. Galveston was the only remaining port in Southern hands at the time of surrender.



The *USS Clifton's* "walking beam" was installed at Sabine Pass Battleground, a THC state historic site.

In September 1863, Union forces attempting to secure access to railroads and valuable cotton-shipping routes in East Texas sent 11 gunboats to invade Fort Griffin, just a few miles north of where the Sabine River empties into the Gulf of Mexico. The thousands of Union soldiers significantly outnumbered the Confederate forces, which were armed with approximately 40 men and six mounted cannons. Despite these odds, the Confederate troops, under the command of Lt. Richard Dowling, fired on the advancing gunboats with impressive accuracy, resulting in a fatal explosion from a direct shot to the boiler of the *USS Sachem*, and causing the *USS Clifton* to run aground following a precisely fired cannon shot. By the end of the battle, Dowling's men, primarily consisting of the Davis Guards of the First Texas Heavy Artillery Regiment, had captured 300 Union prisoners and two gunboats. The Confederates were severely outnumbered yet they remained dedicated to their cause and notched an unexpected victory.

In January of 2013, the THC added a significant element of Sabine Pass' history to the site. The *Clifton's* "walking beam," a rare maritime artifact that assisted with propelling the ship's paddlewheel, was permanently installed on the grounds. After the *Clifton* wrecked in 1864, the walking beam and the ship's boiler were visible landmarks in the water. In 1911, the walking beam was removed and installed in a Beaumont park. In 2011, the walking beam was acquired by the THC before undergoing an extensive conservation process at the Texas A&M University Conservation Research Laboratory. ★



THE COTTON ECONOMY

During the Civil War, the Texas economy was primarily agrarian and cotton was the main crop. The state represented the western edge of the Southern cotton culture and the supporting slave labor force. About 30 percent of Texans were enslaved African Americans in 1860.

When the federal blockade disrupted coastal trade, Texans shipped cotton and other goods overland by wagons to Brownsville and across the Rio Grande to Matamoros, Mexico. As an international waterway, the river remained open to foreign traffic. It allowed ships carrying thousands of bales of Confederate cotton to sail to distant ports. In late 1863, federal occupation of Brownsville diverted Texas cotton hundreds of miles north to Laredo or Eagle Pass.



A few industries existed in the state by 1861, but new ones soon opened to support the war effort. Texas companies manufactured guns, ammunition, cloth, uniforms, iron, salt, medicines, and other vital goods. Cotton provided the currency to purchase these items.

Texas avoided major invasions by Union troops. This relative isolation protected new industrial growth and agricultural production from much of the devastation suffered by other Confederate states. ★



LEVI JORDAN PLANTATION STATE HISTORIC SITE

The THC's Levi Jordan Plantation State Historic Site near the San Bernard River in Brazoria County has both a pre-and-post Civil War history. In 1854, Jordan constructed a plantation house from yellow long-leaf pine lumber carried by ship from Florida, transferred to barges, and towed up the San Bernard River. Slaves hand-hewed the sills and studs of the house from local oaks and made bricks for the fireplaces. By 1860, according to the census, Levi Jordan had 134 slaves. That year the plantation comprised 600 improved acres and produced 3,000 bushels of corn, 77 bales of cotton, and 193 hogsheads of sugar. After 1865, sugar production declined as it became difficult to sustain such a large labor force after Emancipation. Cotton production increased, and a large-scale commitment to food staple production was sustained by a sharecropping and tenancy system.

The pair of iron scissors, above, was one of several thousand objects recovered during excavations of the plantation site to uncover and preserve this chapter in Texas history. The slave quarters area of the plantation has yielded artifacts that offer an unprecedented view into African American culture in 19th century Texas.

Left: Toward the end of the war, federal forces occupied the strategic river port of Brownsville, forcing a cross river evacuation into Matamoros, Mexico, thereby controlling the lower Rio Grande for a portion of the war. Above: Levi Jordan Plantation, a THC state historic site

THE COTTON ECONOMY



Brownsville, shown above, was a major port for the shipment of Southern cotton during the Civil War.



Recognized as the highest ranking Mexican American to serve the Confederacy, Col. Santos Benavides, shown left, led the defense of Laredo in 1864 and arranged for the safe passage of Texas cotton during the Union occupation of Brownsville.

Like all Americans, Hispanics were deeply affected by the Civil War. When the nation split in two, many were forced to choose whether to support the Union or the Confederacy. From the first shots to the last action, many made a conscious decision to join in the fight. While Texas became a stalwart supporter of the Confederate cause, Hispanics—particularly those along the Rio Grande border with Mexico—divided in their support for the Union.

In Texas, Tejanos faced the challenge of where to place their loyalties. Living in a region where the institution was relatively scarce, slavery played less of a role in these decisions. Many had grown up on the northern frontier of Mexico as proponents of Mexican Federalism, a belief in regional autonomy that coincided with the states' rights policies of the Confederacy. Wealthy Tejano ranchers were linked to the Confederate leaders of Texas by marriage, politics, and shared economic interests.

BATTLE OF LAREDO

Elected Mayor of Laredo in 1859, Refugio Benavides and his brothers were active during the Civil War with the defenses along the Texas-Mexico border. Rising to the rank of Captain, Benavides commanded a company of Tejanos in the C.S.A.'s 3rd Texas cavalry. His actions in defending the border against invasions by Union troops and Mexican raiders led by Juan Cortina helped retain the valley's important role as a vital cotton-exporting site for the Confederacy.

Refugio's brother, Santos Benavides, was offered a Union generalship, but turned it down to protect his homeland of Texas. Captain Refugio Benavides and Colonel Santos Benavides, in command of his own regiment known as Benavides' Regiment, helped lead a defense of Laredo on March 19, 1864 from a Union raid in what became known as the Battle of Laredo. Following the war, in 1873 after Reconstruction, Refugio Benavides was again elected mayor of Laredo and served three successive terms.



CSA Officers in Laredo: Refugio Benevides, Atanacio Vidaurri, Cristobal Benavides, and John Leyendecker



WOMEN AND REFUGEES

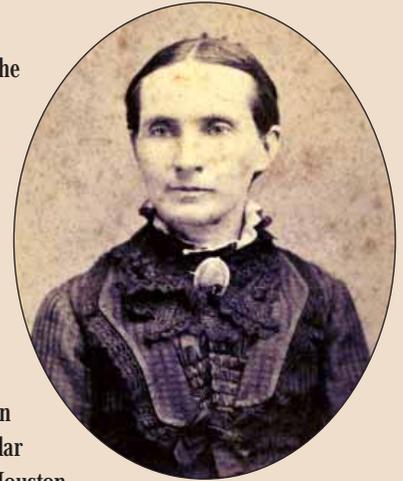
WILLIAM AND MALINDA SMITH ACQUIRED 400 ACRES OF FARMLAND IN GRIMES COUNTY IN 1854. AT THE ONSET OF WAR, WILLIAM JOINED THE CONFEDERATE ARMY, AND WHEN HE DIED OF INFLUENZA IN 1864, MALINDA ASSUMED SOLE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE FARM AND FAMILY. WITH THE AID OF HER CHILDREN AND FORMER SLAVES, THE FARM SURVIVED WAR AND RECONSTRUCTION TO BE PASSED ON TO LATER GENERATIONS.



The Civil War touched the lives of all Texans — civilian and military alike. Those who remained on the home front often dealt with food shortages, low currency values, refugee migration, frontier Indian raids, and rumors of Northern invasion. Despite hardships, they supported the war effort with taxes and increased production of industry and agriculture. Many served in local militia units and home guards to ensure security and promote unity.

With tens of thousands of men in the service, new responsibilities fell to Texas women. Many homemakers and mothers also ran plantations and family farms, worked in plants, made uniforms, crafted clothing of homespun cotton, and promoted patriotism. Some women aided the military effort as spies, gunrunners, and nurses. A few, disguised as men, even served as soldiers.

As the fighting intensified in the Southeast and along the Mississippi Valley, large numbers of civilian refugees poured into Texas, some passing through on their way to Mexico or the territories of the Southwest. Fear of invasion occasionally forced Texans to abandon their homes as well. The evacuation of Galveston placed a particular burden on resources in the Houston area. The influx of hundreds of displaced Southerners throughout East Texas strained food supplies and created housing and commodity shortages. ★



Opened in 1908, the Confederate Woman's Home in Austin, shown in this 1926 photo, housed widows and wives of Confederate soldiers, as well as women who aided the Confederacy.



Elizabeth "Lizzie" Scott Neblett, shown above, was 30 years old and pregnant with her fifth child when her husband, William, enlisted in the Confederate Army. Their surviving wartime letters reveal Lizzie's struggle to manage their East Texas plantation.

CAMP FORD



Camp Ford, named for John S. "Rip" Ford, was the Confederacy's largest prisoner of war camp west of the Mississippi River during the Civil War and one of several prisons established in Texas. The first inmates began arriving at the former conscription camp near Tyler in 1863. Initially, the site offered little more than a shed for protection from the elements. Over time, cabins were constructed, but housing became insufficient when the prison population exceeded 5,000 early in 1864. As a result, inmates carved caves and dugouts into the hillside for shelter.

Overcrowding led to prisoner parole and relocation until the remaining 1,800 men were released on May 19, 1865. Camp Ford was reportedly one of the more humane of Civil War prisons with an overall death rate of less than seven percent.

Above: The March 4, 1865 edition of *Harper's Weekly* featured an illustration of Camp Ford.

CAMP GROCE

Several Confederate military facilities were established near Hempsted in Waller County, an important railroad junction in Texas during the Civil War. In 1862, the Confederacy established "a camp of instruction for Confederate recruits" on the plantation of Leonard Waller Groce, but the post was later abandoned due to health concerns trending from its poor location for drainage.

During the following summer of 1863, the site was re-opened as a prisoner of war stockade for Union soldiers captured during the Battle of Galveston and the First Battle of Sabine Pass, and later the Second Battle of Sabine Pass. As the prisoner population increased, Camp Groce would eventually become the second largest prisoner of war camp in Texas. In December 1863 nearly all of the Union prisoners were transferred to Shreveport, Louisiana for exchange of Confederate soldiers.

In 1864, battles east of Texas produced additional prisoners of war for the Confederacy, and about 150 Union prisoners were sent to Camp Groce. Tragically, the conditions at Camp Groce remained very poor and many Union prisoners died and were buried nearby. Before year's end the remaining prisoners were paroled and sent to Galveston where Union ships transported the prisoners back east. ★



In 1986 the *Union Army P.O.W. Cemetery* historical marker was placed at a roadside Memorial Park west of Hempsted.

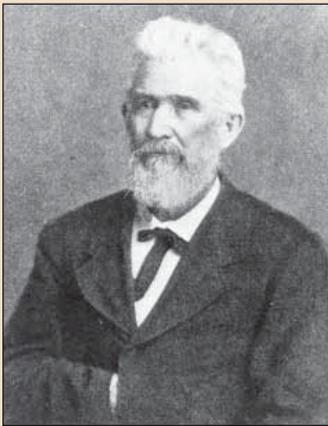
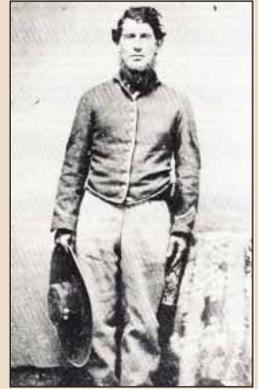
BATTLE OF PALMITO RANCH

Throughout the spring of 1865, the plight of the Confederacy looked grim. The South's worst fears were realized after the news of Robert E. Lee's surrender at Appomatox. When Texas units of the Army of Northern Virginia put down their weapons, folks back home in Texas knew capitulation could not be far behind.

Despite events in the eastern theater, Gen. E. Kirby Smith, Trans-Mississippi Department commander, and Gen. John Bankhead Magruder, in charge of the Texas district, ordered in-state troops to remain at their posts. Gov. Pendleton Murrah implored the people of Texas not to waiver in their support of the cause but, for many, the determination to continue was short-lived.

In early May, soldiers in the eastern part of the state left their units, turned homeward, and sadly recognized defeat. However, Confederates, under the command of the spirited Col. John S. "Rip" Ford near Brownsville, waged one final battle. The Battle of Palmito Ranch along the Rio Grande was the last land battle of the Civil War.

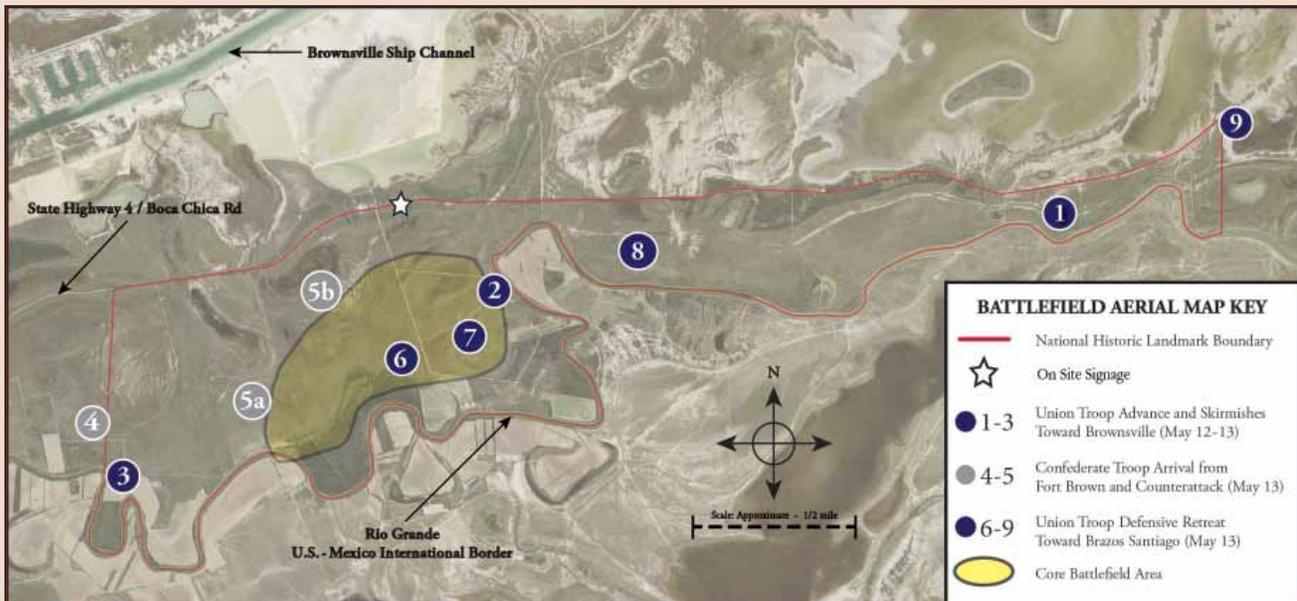
Although both the Union and Confederacy maintained armed forces at Brazos Santiago and Fort Brown respectively, during May 1865 the leaders of both armies realized that the Civil War was essentially over, and continued fighting in Texas would do little to change the final outcome of the war. In fact, until the Battle of Palmito Ranch began on May 11, both armies honored an informal truce agreement negotiated about two months earlier between Union General Lew Wallace and Confederate commanders General John E. Slaughter and Colonel Rip Ford. For generations, scholars have repeated the claim that Confederate troops in Brownsville, late in the war consisted almost entirely of "old men and young boys." However, muster rolls provide the names and dates of birth of hundred troopers, only a handful of which were outside of draft age. These rolls document the men's status as conscripts, and the diversity of those men serving the Confederacy. They included Tejanos, American Indians, Anglos, Portuguese, Irish, Germans, Africans, and Danes.



Above: Col. John S. "Rip" Ford;
Top Right: Sgt. Patricio Perez,
Union Army;
Right: Illustration of a Hispanic
Confederate Soldier



BATTLE OF PALMITO RANCH



Above: Aerial view of the Battle of Palmito Ranch.

On May 11, 1865 the informal truce was broken when Colonel Theodore H. Barrett, commander of the Union troops stationed at Brazos Santiago ordered a force, consisting of African American troops of the 62nd U.S.C.T. and white soldiers from the 2nd Texas Cavalry (unmounted), pro-Union Texas residents who joined the Federal army, to make a landing and march on Fort Brown.

Very early on the morning of May 12, Lt. Colonel David Branson's troops surrounded **White's Ranch**⁽¹⁾, a small settlement east of Palmito Ranch, in hopes of capturing this Confederate outpost. They discovered, instead, that the outpost had been deserted one or two days prior to their arrival. Later that morning persons on the Mexican side of the Rio Grande spotted the Union camp and promptly brought the concealed soldiers to the attention of the Confederates. The Imperial Mexican Army was sympathetic to the Confederate cause. Union soldiers immediately started for **Palmito Ranch**⁽²⁾, skirmishing most of the way with Gidding's Regiment of Confederate cavalry under the command of Captain Robinson, driving them from their camp by mid-day. By this point the Union force had reached **San Martin Ranch**⁽³⁾; Colonel Ford sent a message to Robinson urging that his force hold their ground, and that Ford would bring reinforcements as soon as possible.

After the brief skirmishing west of Palmito Ranch, Union troops retreated to what is now known as Palmito Hill to rest and feed their animals. At approximately 3 p.m., a reinforced Confederate force appeared and the Union force considered its position on Palmito Hill to be indefensible, so Branson led his troops back to White's Ranch for the night. At White's Ranch, Branson sent a message to Barrett requesting additional support. At daybreak the next morning (May 13, 1865), Branson and his men were joined at White's Ranch by 200 men of the 34th Indiana Volunteer Infantry (also known as the Morton Rifles), under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Robert G. Morrison. Union Colonel Theodore H. Barrett joined the troops, and assumed command of the enlarged Federal force and pushed west toward Brownsville.

By about 4:00 p.m. on May 13, 1865, Colonel Ford and his troops concluded their long march from Fort Brown and had reached a **point**⁽⁴⁾ near San Martin Ranch. The Union Army was in sight, although not yet aware of the Confederates' presence. Ford issued directions for a two-pronged attack. Colonel Barrett and the Union troops abruptly found themselves facing a largely reinforced Confederate Army, possessing several cannons (which the Union force did not have), advancing towards them not only in the **front**⁽⁵⁾, but also on their right flank, in an attempt to gain their rear.



THE END OF THE WAR



Held annually by the THC since 2008 at Palmito Ranch Battlefield, Park Day—an annual event sponsored by the Civil War Trust and the History Channel—brings together volunteers to clean or repair America's Civil War battlefields.

The Union soldiers prepared for the imminent **attack**⁽⁶⁾ by forming an oblique skirmish line, extending from the Rio Grande on the Union's left stretching north to cover their retreat. The heaviest fighting of the battle commenced. The Confederate cavalry charged and regardless of how well the small number of Union skirmishers performed their duty to **hold off**⁽⁷⁾ the Confederates and give their fellow troops time to retreat and regroup, too few had deployed to mount an effective challenge to the approaching Confederate troops.



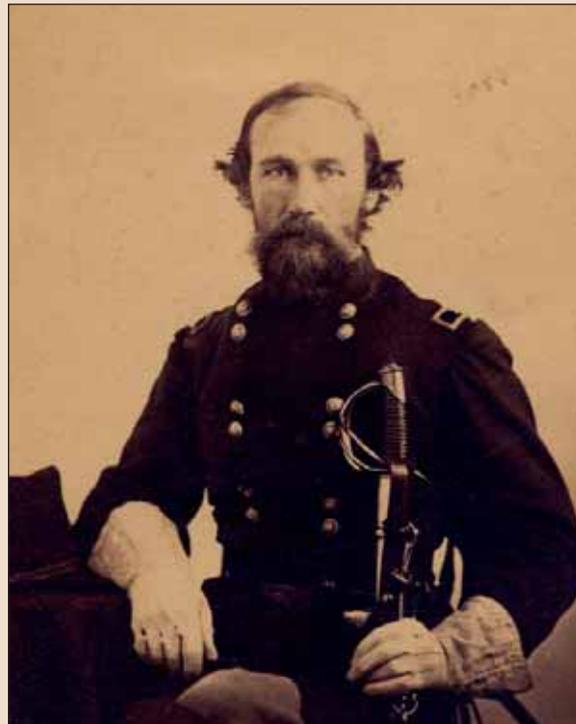
Texas' success in creating a viable post-war economy is a lasting testament to the independence and tenacity of Texans.

Edmund J. Davis, right, served as a general in the U.S. Army during the war and later became governor of Texas during Reconstruction.

The Confederates **pursued**⁽⁸⁾ the Union troops in a north and then east direction for approximately seven or eight miles. The Union troops were driven back to **Cobb's Ranch**⁽⁹⁾ approximately two miles from Boca Chica, where Ford ordered his troops to halt. In sum, approximately 270 Confederate cavalymen and 30 artillerymen (later reinforced by 120 cavalymen after driving the Union soldiers into a full retreat) defeated 450 Union infantrymen and 50 dismounted cavalymen in a two-day engagement that left 114 Union casualties, including two killed, six wounded, 102 prisoners and two missing.

Gen. E. Kirby Smith surrendered the Trans-Mississippi on June 2, 1865, with no army left to command. Federal occupation forces soon arrived and on June 19th, Union Gen. Gordon Granger officially freed the slaves of Texas. The Texan date of emancipation is celebrated across the country as Juneteenth.

The Civil War changed the lives of all Texans in dramatic ways. Though Texas was spared much of the devastation suffered by other Confederate states, the agricultural economy based on slave labor was gone. Death or injury to husbands, fathers, and sons during the conflict only worsened the situation. The reconstruction of the state politically, economically, and socially was arduous. Texas' success in creating a viable post-war economy is a lasting testament to the independence and tenacity of Texans. ★



JUNETEENTH AND RECONSTRUCTION



Juneteenth parade, Galveston

JUNETEENTH
The jubilant news has been commemorated since the end of the war, and was official declared a state holiday in 1980, Commemorated annually as Juneteenth, the holiday is the oldest known celebration of the end of slavery in the U.S. ★

Immediately following the Civil War, President Andrew Johnson announced a new program had begun; known as the Reconstruction Era (1865-1877), historic changes began across the United States. Examples of change during this era that directly impacted African Americans living in Texas included the establishment of the *Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands* and the ratification of the 13th Amendment that abolished slavery and involuntary servitude—both by the United States Congress in 1865.

An important Confederate stronghold during the Civil War, Marshall was home to the wartime capital of Missouri and the postal headquarters of the South's Trans-Mississippi Department. Following the war, it was the site of an office of the Freedmen's Bureau.

Located in Houston's Fourth Ward, the original Freedman's Town settlement was founded soon after the emancipation of enslaved African Americans on June 19, 1865. Positioned west of downtown and directly south of Buffalo Bayou, the community gradually expanded to the south and west during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Freedman's Town quickly became the economic and cultural center of Houston's African American population, growing throughout the 1880s and 1890s.

Beginning in the Reconstruction Era, 52 African Americans would eventually serve in the Texas Senate, House of Representatives and two constitutional conventions between 1868 and the turn of the century. ★



ARMSTEAD RODERICK BARKER CAME TO TEXAS AS A SLAVE OF THE LARKIN FAMILY IN 1859. BARKER WAS ONE OF SEVERAL ENSLAVED AFRICANS WHO CONSTRUCTED THE LARKINS' FARM AND HOMESTEAD. FREED IN 1865, HE MARRIED AND BECAME A SHARECROPPER FOR HIS FORMER MASTER. BY 1870, HARD WORK ENABLED HIM TO PURCHASE 160 ACRES OF LAND. IN TIME, HE ADDED ACREAGE AND EXPANDED HIS OPERATIONS TO INCLUDE AN ORCHARD AND SYRUP MILL. BARKER WAS A FOUNDER OF A LOCAL CHURCH AND PROVIDED LAND FOR A CEMETERY IN THE COMMUNITY IN HENDERSON COUNTY WHICH STILL BEARS HIS NAME.

Rep. Benjamin Franklin Williams, far left, served during the Reconstruction era as a Delegate to the 1868-69 Constitutional Convention from Colorado and Lavaca Counties and in the House of Representatives during the 12th Legislature (1870-71).

Sen. George Thompson Ruby, left, moved to Galveston County in 1866. There he joined the Freedmen's Bureau and administered its schools. By 1868, Ruby had risen within the ranks of the Republican Party and represented Galveston, Brazoria, and Matagorda counties during the Reconstruction era, serving in the 1868-69 Constitutional Convention and the 12th (1870-71) and 13th (1873) Legislatures.

CONFEDERATE REUNION GROUNDS STATE HISTORIC SITE

With its towering bur oaks and crystal springs, the bend of the Navasota River at the juncture of Jack's Creek has served as a gathering place from prehistoric times to modern day. Beginning in the 1880s, Civil War veterans, Union and Confederate alike, wished to celebrate the camaraderie and memory of their war experiences and sacrifices. In spite of the strife and hardships of post-war Reconstruction, a strong sense of brotherhood persisted. Small groups of Limestone County Confederate veterans met informally to socialize and reminisce, and in 1888 they began meeting annually in the spot where Jack's Creek enters the Navasota River, known then as the "Pen Campmeeting Grounds." People attending the annual reunions, held in late July or early August under a full moon, arrived by horse, buggy and special trains from Dallas and Houston.

During the reunions, gatherings included parades, brass band concerts, patriotic speeches, games and traditional southern foods. Attendees danced the nights away on the wooden floor of the pavilion, which is now listed in the National Register of Historic Places for its unusual architecture.

Each day at dawn and dusk, veterans proudly fired Old Val Verde, one of two Union cannons captured by Confederates at the battle of Mansfield, Louisiana in 1864. These guns saw action for the Confederates in the Louisiana campaigns with the Valverde Battery. At the end of the war, Captain T.D. Nettles buried the two cannons under a buggy house in nearby Fairfield rather than surrender them to Union troops. Today, the one known as Old Val Verde is on display beneath the flagpoles at the center of the site. By the end of World War I, the gatherings continued but on a smaller scale. In September 1983, the Confederate Reunion Grounds were donated to the State of Texas and today is a THC administered site. ★



Top right: Old Val Verde, Confederate Reunion Grounds State Historic Site

Right: Hood's Texas Brigade's 1907 reunion, Navasota



CIVIL WAR SITES IN TEXAS

The stories of the Civil War are told at museums and historic sites across the state. While it is impossible to list all the towns affected by the Civil War, the following offer tourist attractions where visitors can experience and explore this important time in Texas history. Please contact the local information center for hours of operation and directions.

■ AUSTIN

The Texas capital since 1839, Austin was the site of the secession convention in 1861. Throughout the conflict, war-related activities dominated life in the capital city. Evidence of the city's involvement is particularly visible downtown. Monuments on the grounds of the 1888 **State Capitol Building** pay tribute to Hood's Texas Brigade, Terry's Texas Rangers and the Confederacy. The nearby **Texas State Library and Archives** house the state Confederate pension applications and other war records available to researchers. The 1856 **Governor's Mansion** also has Civil War ties. Sam Houston, Texas governor from 1859 to 1861, resided in the mansion during secession. According to legend, Abraham Lincoln offered Houston military support to keep Texas in the Union, but Houston burned the president's letter in a mansion fireplace to prevent bloodshed in the state. **The State Cemetery**, established in 1851, includes burials of many war veterans such as Gen. Albert Sidney Johnston, whose memorial features a recumbent statue by renowned sculptor Elisabet Ney.



Terry's Texas Rangers monument, Austin



Fort Clark, Bracketville

■ BRACKETTVILLE

Today, on the south edge of town, **Fort Clark** stands as a reminder of the Confederate troops that seized this federal fort in 1861. Texans occupied the grounds briefly until withdrawing in 1862. The fort's military history is on display at the **Old Fort Clark Guardhouse Museum**.

■ BRAZORIA

Significant to the antebellum period of Texas and the tumultuous era of Reconstruction, the **Levi Jordan Plantation State Historic Site** hosted a sizable plantation operation and two-story Greek Revival-style house. Today, this site provides a unique opportunity to understand the evolving agricultural history of the South and the early African American experience in Texas.



Left: Governor's Mansion, Austin; above: artist depiction of slaves working in the field

■ **BROWNSVILLE**

This Southern port played a vital role in the Texas cotton trade and is home to Fort Brown, built in 1846 to protect the boundary of Texas. During the Civil War, **Fort Brown** alternated between Union and Confederate possession. Today, the fort is part of the University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College. Visitors to this South Texas city can view Civil War displays and artifacts at the **Historic Brownsville Museum**. East of town, a historical marker and radio broadcast on 1610 AM identifies the **Palmito Ranch Battlefield**, the site of the last land battle of the Civil War on May 12–13, 1865.

■ **COMFORT**

In 1862, Confederate troops attacked a group of Hill Country Unionists en route to Mexico and the Battle of the Nueces ensued. **The Treüe der Union Monument** marks the burial site of pro-Union loyalists killed in the battle that took place north of Brackettville. The memorial, built in 1866, is the oldest Civil War monument in Texas.

■ **CORPUS CHRISTI**

A primary target for federal blockaders and a haven for blockade runners, this city survived enemy attacks to remain in Confederate control throughout the war. The popular **Corpus Christi Museum of Science and History** houses Civil War memorabilia and an extensive collection of artifacts from Fort Polk and Fort Brazos Santiago.

■ **CORSICANA**

A wonderful resource for students of the Civil War, the Pearce Civil War Documents Collection is in the **Navarro College Library**. The collection features impressive archives of Civil War documents, manuscripts, diaries and artifacts.



The Pearce Collections, Navarro College Library

■ **CROCKETT**

The name of **Germany Community** originated from references to a German family that settled here. The first African Americans arrived in this area as slaves. Following the Civil War, a group of former slaves that included John Burt, George Smith, Lewis Hall and Van and Jane Benton applied for and received land patents in the area. In 1883, the community constructed the New Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, which doubled as a school, and set aside land for a cemetery. The agricultural community of Germany has never been large, but the church remains active and hosts several social events throughout the year.



"The Sentinel," depicts an African warrior, Freedman's Cemetery Memorial, Dallas

■ **DALLAS**

Freedman's Cemetery Memorial, as the name suggests, belonged to a community of former slaves established in this area after the Civil War. Dedicated in 1869, the cemetery closed in the 1920s and suffered from both neglect and vandalism. In the 1930s–40s, the construction of an expressway and a major intersection eliminated most of the remaining above-ground reminders of the cemetery. In the late 1980s, efforts to expand the city's Central Expressway led members of the local community, including descendants

of those buried in the cemetery, to wage a successful campaign to halt freeway construction long enough for an archeological survey and excavations of the cemetery and the relocation of those interred within it. Between 1991–94, an archeological investigation uncovered more than 1,000 graves, which were carefully relocated, and the local community constructed this memorial. Sculptures by David Newton tell the story of African Americans and their descendants' journey from slavery to emancipation. Poems around the perimeter also commemorate those originally buried here.

■ **EAGLE PASS**

This town developed after the establishment of **Fort Duncan** in 1849, originally named Rio Grande Station. During the war, the fort protected Southern trade with Mexico. Today, the **Fort Duncan Museum** offers visitors the opportunity to experience and understand the fort's role by viewing buildings and artifacts from the Civil War era.



Fort Duncan Museum, Eagle Pass

■ EDINBURG

This South Texas community is home to the **Hidalgo County Historical Museum**, which highlights the area's rich heritage. The museum houses collections on regional military and economic history, including an exhibit detailing the Civil War cotton trade.

■ EL PASO

During the war, this frontier trading center was a staging area for Gen. Henry H. Sibley's invasion of the New Mexico Territory and home to Fort Bliss, the Confederacy's southwestern regional headquarters. Today, visitors can tour the **U.S. Army Museum of the Noncommissioned Officer** or explore the reconstructed fort at the **Fort Bliss Museum**. This distinctive city also boasts the **El Paso Museum of History**, which highlights the region's rich history, including unique U.S. cavalry mementos. A striking adobe structure, the THC's **Magoffin Home State Historic Site** explores the stories of a multicultural family who actively participated in U.S. expansion and settlement, military service, trade on the Santa Fe–Chihuahua Trail, Civil War turmoil and U.S.–Mexico relations.



Magoffin Home State Historic Site, El Paso

■ FORT DAVIS

Fort Davis grew up around the nearby military post established in the 1850s by the order of U.S. Secretary of War Jefferson Davis. Southern troops occupied the fort in 1861 when Davis became president of the Confederacy. Today, visitors to Fort Davis can explore more than 20 restored structures, including the post hospital and lieutenants' quarters, as well as a visitor center and museum.



Fort Stockton



Fort Davis

■ FORT STOCKTON

Fort Stockton sits at a major intersection of historic roads routed through the area to take advantage of Comanche Springs, once the third largest source of spring water in Texas. Camp Stockton was built in 1859 to defend settlers and travelers from Indian raids. The post was abandoned at the outbreak of the war in 1861, and was briefly occupied by Confederates. It was reestablished in 1867, and troops operated in the area until it closed in 1886. The original guardhouse, officer's quarters and reconstructed barracks are open to the public.



Texas Civil War Museum, Fort Worth

■ FORT WORTH

The **Texas Civil War Museum** has over 15,000 square feet of exhibits and is the largest Civil War museum west of the Mississippi River. Three separate galleries display a civil war collection, Victorian dress collection and United Daughters of the Confederacy Texas Confederate collection. Along with exhibits the museum has a 75-seat movie theatre.

■ GAINESVILLE

Like many North Texas communities, Gainesville residents were deeply divided during the Civil War. Intense anti-Union sentiment turned deadly in October 1862, and 40 people suspected of disloyalties against the Confederacy were executed. This incident, known as the Great Hanging at Gainesville, is interpreted with a historical marker and featured in exhibits at the **Morton Museum of Cooke County**.

■ GALVESTON

This port city was the backdrop for a number of Texas Civil War dramas. The historic Battle of Galveston on New Year's Day, 1863, ended Union occupation of the port. It is documented with a historical marker at the **Texas Seaport Museum**. After the surrender of the Trans-Mississippi Department, the Emancipation Proclamation was announced according to some accounts at Ashton Villa on June 19, 1865, officially ending slavery in the state. A monument commemorating both historic events can be found at the Old Custom House, a landmark of the Civil War era. Visitors can learn about these events and others at the **Rosenberg Library**, which features Civil War exhibits, as well as an extensive collection of newspapers, maps, correspondence, photographs, and diaries. A historic bank building is now the **Galveston County Historical Museum**, which houses an extensive local history collection.



Ashton Villa, Galveston

■ GRAHAM

Nearby **Fort Belknap**, established as a northern anchor on the Texas frontier line of defense, was abandoned by federal troops in 1861. State troops of the Frontier Regiment under Col. James M. Norris occupied the fort at various times throughout the war. Federal troops reoccupied it in 1867 before it was finally abandoned the same year. Today, the fort's buildings are restored or rebuilt and used for cultural and recreational activities.



Liendo Plantation near Hempstead

■ HEMPSTEAD

This town was active as a Confederate supply and manufacturing center. The magnificent **Liendo Plantation**, which served as a wartime recruitment center and prisoner of war camp, opens its door to visitors on the first Saturday of every month.

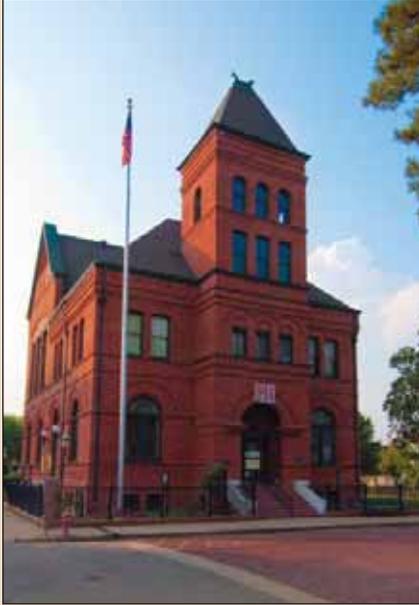


Texas Heritage Museum, Hillsboro

■ HILLSBORO

Civil War enthusiasts can visit the Harold B. Simpson History Complex, located on the grounds of Hill College. The complex houses the **Texas Heritage Museum**, which is dedicated to the state's military history, and a research center that features an extensive collection of rare artifacts, photographs, maps, unit histories, and correspondence.





Jefferson Historical Museum, Jefferson

■ JEFFERSON

Evidence of the cotton plantation culture of the Old South is apparent in many historic structures and homes found in this unique town. Visitors to Jefferson can stroll through the quaint shops or tour one of the many historic plantations for a look at this bygone era. To discover Jefferson's role during the Civil War, visit the

Jefferson Historical

Society Museum, where Civil War weapons and uniforms are among the many collections.

■ KENDLETON

The **Fort Bend County Heritage Unlimited Museum** sits a stone's throw from the original site of Kendleton, a freedmen's town founded shortly after the Civil War on the banks of the San Bernard River. The museum focuses on the lives of African Americans in the surrounding area. The museum's permanent exhibits depict the lifestyles of African American settlers and residents from 1865–1965. Of particular interest is the museum's genealogy corner, where volunteers assist individuals on researching family history. The museum also hosts activities, such as quilting workshops, heritage days, local art displays, and an emancipation reenactment.

■ LAREDO

As the coastal blockade strengthened, this city offered an alternate route for trade. Union forces attempted to destroy stores of cotton bales in 1864, but were held off by Confederates fighting under Col. Santos Benavides in the Battle of Laredo. In this area, the Confederacy also gained control of Fort McIntosh after it was abandoned by the Union in 1861. **Laredo Community College** currently occupies the remaining fort structures, but visitors are welcome to roam the grounds to experience its heritage.

■ MARSHALL

This East Texas city served many purposes during the war. A major center of politics, military operations and munitions supply, Marshall was the temporary capital of the Missouri Confederate government in exile. Today, a monument marks the site that once held a frame house used by Missouri Gov. Thomas C. Reynolds as his state's Confederate "capitol." Tourists can learn more of the county's wartime role at the **Harrison County Historical Museum**. The **Starr Family Home State Historic Site** is a THC property. It illustrates the importance of the family and its role in 19th century Texas economic, political, and social life between Reconstruction and the early 20th century.



Starr Family Home State Historic Site, Marshall

■ MASON

This small community grew up around Fort Mason, which was established in 1851. The fort was Robert E. Lee's last command post in the U.S. Army. Albert Sidney Johnston, John Bell Hood and Edmund



Fort Mason, Mason

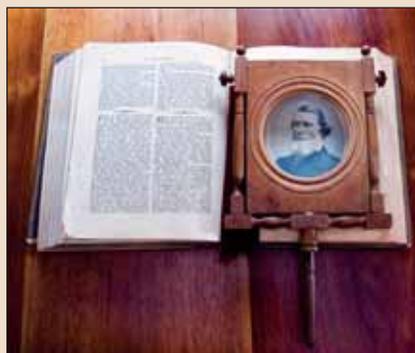
Kirby Smith also served here prior to their service in the Civil War. During the war, the Confederacy controlled the fort, but it remained virtually unmanned. Families often sought shelter and protection within its walls during frequent Indian raids. Today, visitors can explore the reproduction officers' quarters at the **Fort Mason Museum**.

■ **MERTZON**

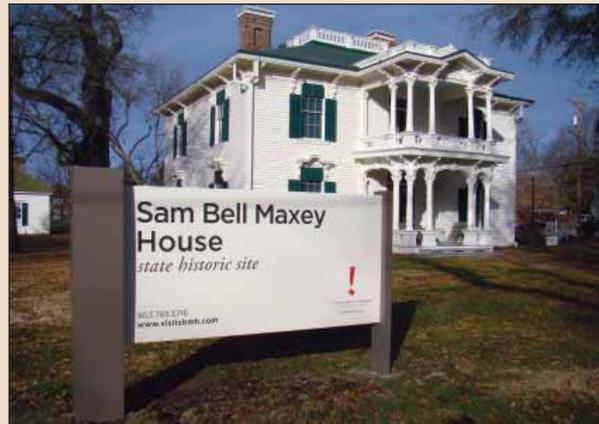
A monument on the **Irion County Courthouse** grounds pays tribute to the Battle of Dove Creek, a skirmish on January 8, 1865 involving Confederate troops, state militia and a migrating group of Kickapoo Indians. A fierce battle resulted with the Indians defeating the military forces.

■ **MEXIA**

On the edge of the Navasota River, the THC's **Confederate Reunion Grounds State Historic Site** commemorates a site where Confederate Civil War veterans and families reunited from 1889–1946. Today, it remains a gathering place for living history events and family reunions, and features an 1893 dance pavilion, Civil War-era cannon, and ruins of structures from the “Roaring ‘20s” and Mexia Oil Boom.



Above: Confederate Reunion Grounds State Historic Site, Mexia ; Sam Bell Maxey House State Historic Site, Paris



Sam Bell Maxey House State Historic Site, Paris

■ **PARIS**

Lamar County was one of the few Texas counties to vote against secession during the Civil War. However, many inhabitants fought for the South and Confederate Gen. Sam Bell Maxey, who later became a U.S. Senator, chose Paris as his home. Visitors to Paris, the county seat, can explore the 1870s High Victorian Italianate-style home at the THC's **Sam Bell Maxey House State Historic Site**.

■ **PORT ARTHUR**

In Port Arthur, view relics from the historic Battle of Sabine Pass and experience local history at the impressive **Museum of the Gulf Coast**.

■ **PORT LAVACA**

Known as Lavaca in the 1860s, this port was a hub of military activity and suffered several bombardments in 1862. The city withstood the attacks and the Union eventually withdrew, but troops returned in December 1863, when they briefly took control of the area. Visitors can learn more about the city's history and its wartime role at the **Calhoun County Museum**. Exhibits include authentic Civil War cannonballs and uniforms.



■ RICHMOND

A number of men from Richmond and the surrounding area joined Confederate forces during the war. **The Fort Bend County Historical Museum** portrays the county's involvement through Civil War and plantation era exhibits.

■ RIO GRANDE CITY

The establishment of **Fort Ringgold** in 1848 assured the growth and permanence of Rio Grande City. Robert E. Lee served at this historic fort, which stood guard over the Rio Grande and Rio Grande City for nearly a century. The fort is now owned and used by the local school district.

■ SABINE PASS

The location of a significant Civil War battlefield, the THC's **Sabine Pass Battleground State Historic Site** honors a small band of heroic Confederate soldiers that defeated four Union gunboats and prevented Union forces from penetrating the Texas interior in 1863. The site features a stately bronze statue of Confederate Lt. Richard "Dick" Dowling, who led the 46 men to victory, and interpretive signage illustrating the story of the battle.



Above: Monument featuring Lt. Richard "Dick" Dowling, Sabine Pass Battleground State Historic Site; Right: Wilson Pottery, Seguin-Guadalupe County Heritage Museum, Seguin



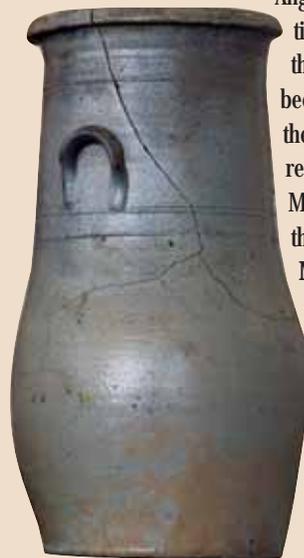
Institute of Texan Cultures, San Antonio

■ SAN ANTONIO

In 1861, as Texas prepared to secede from the Union, local militia forced the surrender of the Federal arsenal at San Antonio. Subsequently, San Antonio served as a Confederate depot and several units, such as John S. Ford's Cavalry of the West, formed there. Visitors to this historic city can tour the **Institute of Texan Cultures** for a look at Civil War artifacts and archives. The museum's exhibits represent the diverse ethnic and cultural groups in Texas' history.

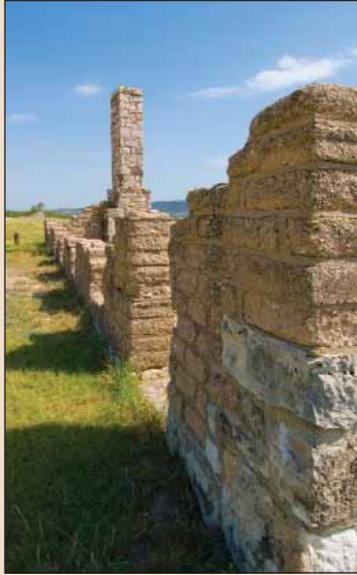
■ SEGUIN

In 1869, James, Hiram and Wallace Wilson opened the H. Wilson & Co. pottery shop and operated it until 1884. The three former slaves had split off from the business once owned by their former master, John M. Wilson. By their success, both in building a business and as craftsmen creating unique pottery, the freedmen demonstrated that African Americans could be prosperous entrepreneurs at a time when Southern Anglos actively sought to keep former slaves tied to the land as sharecroppers. Although the location of Wilson Potteries has now become an archeological site that is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and received an official Texas Historical Subject Marker, the story continues to be told today at the **Seguin-Guadalupe County Heritage Museum** through a pottery artifact display.



■ SHEFFIELD

Fort Lancaster, originally Camp Lancaster, was established east of Sheffield in 1855. Texas forces occupied the fort throughout the Civil War. Today, visitors to the THC's **Fort Lancaster State Historic Site** can explore building ruins and see exhibits of artifacts from the fort in the Visitor Center. Spanning 82 acres in the Pecos River Valley, Fort Lancaster State Historic Site commemorates the vestiges of one of four posts established in 1855 to protect the military route between San Antonio and El Paso. General Sibley's New Mexico Expedition utilized the abandoned post as one of many stops it made progressing west toward El Paso and eventually the battles in New Mexico. Visitors wander through ruins imagining the once-impressive establishment of 25 permanent buildings — including a blacksmith shop, hospital, sutler's store, and bakery — and enjoy the sights, sounds, and wildlife of West Texas.



Fort Lancaster near Sheffield

■ SUGAR LAND

True to its name, this community was founded on sugar production and is still dependent on the industry. Civil War collections, including weapons, photographs and other artifacts, are on display at the **Museum of Southern History**.

■ TYLER

During the war, this city was an important arms manufacturing center for the Confederacy. Camp Ford, the largest prisoner of war camp west of the Mississippi River, was also here. The grounds of Camp Ford are developed to interpret the importance of the site. Features include a walking tour, signs and replicated structures. Local history exhibits are on display at the **Carnegie History Center**.



Earle-Harrison House, Waco

■ WACO

Dependent on their flourishing plantation economy, many Waco residents risked their lives to fight for the South. Waco produced six Confederate generals including Thomas Harrison whose home, known as the Earle-Harrison House, stands today as reminder of the community's wartime contribution. Visitors to the property can tour the historic home or roam the adjacent gardens developed to showcase the area's natural beauty.

■ WEST COLUMBIA

The beautiful grounds of the **Varner-Hogg Plantation State Historic Site** attract tourists. Built as the center of an extensive sugar-producing enterprise in the 1830s, the Varner-Hogg home reflects the Texas plantation era. Visitors can experience life during this fascinating period by touring the home and exhibits, foundation ruins of a sugar mill, slave cabins, and other historic buildings. Varner-Hogg Plantation State Historic Site is a THC property.



Historic Varner-Hogg Plantation State Historic Site

TEXAS CIVIL WAR MONUMENTS

In the 1960s, the Texas Civil War Centennial Commission initiated a program to place special commemorative monuments across the nation to honor the contributions of the state's military units during the war. The monuments of native pink granite, cut from historic quarries in the heart of Texas, serve as important visible reminders of the valor, strength, hope and sacrifice of all Texans during the conflict. The THC oversees this important program, which includes monuments at the following sites:

- Vicksburg, Mississippi
- Pea Ridge, Arkansas
- Chickamauga, Georgia
- Kennesaw Mountain, Georgia
- Mansfield, Louisiana
- Antietam, Maryland
- Bentonville, North Carolina
- Gettysburg, Pennsylvania
- Shiloh, Tennessee
- Fort Donelson, Tennessee
- Anthony, Texas
- The Wilderness, Virginia
- Galveston, Texas
- Raymond, Mississippi
- Rowletts, Kentucky
- Richmond, Kentucky
- Corinth, Mississippi
- Gaines' Mill, Virginia
- Second Manassas, Virginia



Texas Monument at Antietam National Battlefield, Maryland

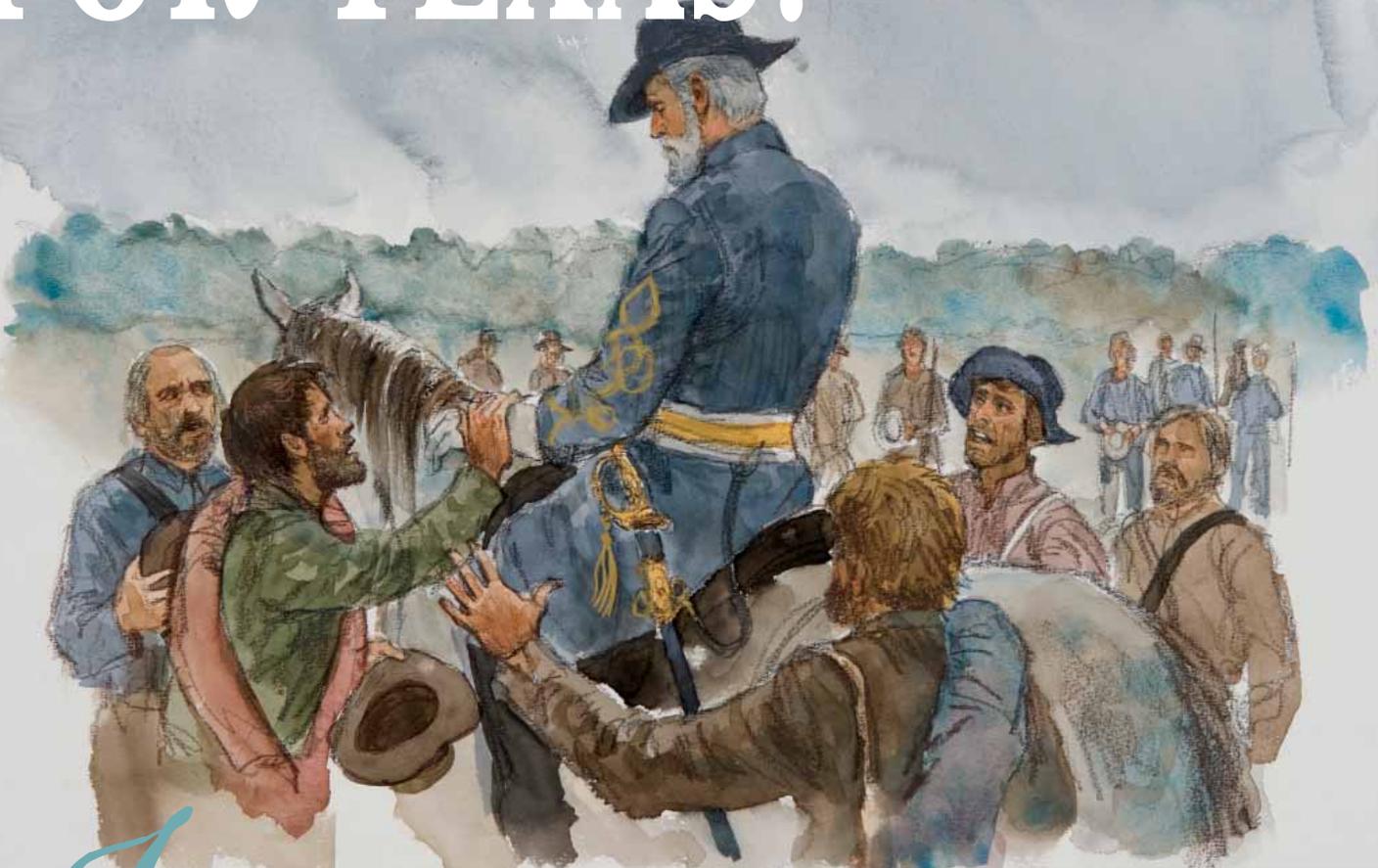


"HURRAH



Top: Texas Monument at Richmond, Kentucky;
bottom: Texas Monument at Vicksburg National Military Park, Mississippi

FOR TEXAS!"



In November 1961, the Texas Civil War Centennial Commission and the Texas State Historical Survey Committee initiated a commemorative series of granite monuments by dedicating the first and largest of the original Centennial monuments at the Vicksburg National Military Park (Mississippi). Over the next three and a half years, these two preservation-minded organizations placed Texas Civil War Monuments on battlefields across the nation, preserving the memories of the contributions made by our state's military units during the Civil War.

In September 2007, the THC established the Texas Civil War Monuments Fund to continue the work begun in 1961 by the Texas Civil War Centennial Commission and the Texas State Historical Survey Committee (the THC's predecessor), to honor the contributions and sacrifices of Texas forces during the Civil War.

Thanks to continued support of the Fund, we have placed five monuments since 2008.



Background: Lee on Horseback, surrounded by soldiers.
Above: Texas Monument, Galveston, Texas

HERITAGE TRAVEL RESOURCES

For more information on specific sites and communities, contact the visitor information centers listed below. Because some sites are closed on weekends, please call in advance.

■ AUSTIN

Convention & Visitors Bureau
301 Congress Ave., Ste. 200
Austin, TX 78701
800.926.ACVB
www.austintexas.org

■ BRACKETTVILLE

Kinney County Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 386
830.563.2466
www.brackettville.com

■ BROWNSVILLE

Convention & Visitors Bureau
650 FM 802
800.626.2639
www.brownsville.org

■ COMFORT

Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 777
830.995.3131
www.comfort-texas.com

■ CORPUS CHRISTI

Convention & Visitors Bureau
101 North Shoreline Blvd.,
Ste. 430
Corpus Christi, TX 78401
800.678.6232
visitcorpuschristitx.org

■ CORSICANA

Corsicana and Navarro County Chamber of Commerce
120 North 12th St.
903.874.4731
www.corsicana.org

■ EAGLE PASS

Chamber of Commerce
400 Garrison St.
888.355.3224
www.eaglepasstexas.com

■ EDINBURG

Chamber of Commerce
602 West University Dr.
800.800.7214
www.edinburg.com

■ EL PASO

Convention & Visitors Bureau
1 Civic Center Plaza
800.351.6024
www.visitelpaso.com



"Polly's Plantation," a painting by Sarah Ann Lillie Hardinge

■ FORT DAVIS

Chamber of Commerce
#4 Memorial Square
800.524.3015
www.fortstockton.org

■ FORT STOCKTON

Chamber of Commerce
1000 Railroad Ave.
800.336.2166
www.ci.fort-stockton.tx.us/tourism.html

■ GAINESVILLE

Gainesville Area Chamber of Commerce
311 South Weaver St.
940.665.2831
gainesvillecofc.com

■ GALVESTON

Galveston Island Convention & Visitors Bureau
2428 Seawall Blvd.
2215 Strand
409.797.5145
www.galveston.com/cvb/

■ GRAHAM

Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 299
Graham, Texas 76450
940.549.3355
www.grahamtxchamber.com

■ HEMPSTEAD

Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 517
979.826.8217
hempssteadtxchamber.com

■ HILLSBORO

Chamber of Commerce
115 North Covington St.
254.582.2481
www.hillsborochamber.org

■ JEFFERSON

Marion County Chamber of Commerce
118 North Vale
903.665.2672
www.jefferson-texas.com

■ LAREDO

Convention & Visitors Bureau
501 San Agustín
800.361.3360
www.visitlaredo.com

■ MARSHALL

Chamber of Commerce
208 East Burleson St.
800.953.7868
www.marshall-chamber.com

■ MASON

Mason County Chamber of Commerce
108 Ft. McKavitt St.
P.O. Box 156
325.347.5758
www.masoncxcoc.com



"Wanderers Retreat," a painting by Sarah Ann Lillie Hardinge

■ MERTZON

Irion County Courthouse (Tax Assessor Office)²³
209 North Parkview
325.835.7771
www.co.irion.tx.us/

■ PARIS

Paris Visitors & Convention Council
8 West Plaza
800.727.4789
www.paristexas.com/visitors_convention.php

■ PORT ARTHUR

800.235.7822
www.visitportarthurtx.com

■ PORT LAVACA

Port Lavaca-Calhoun County Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture
2300 North U.S. Hwy. 35 Bypass
800.556.7678
www.portlavacatx.org

■ RICHMOND

Central Fort Bend Chamber Alliance
4120 Avenue H
281.342.5464
cfbca.org/

■ RIO GRANDE CITY

Rio Grande City Chamber
of Commerce
P.O. Box 1499
956.968.3141
valleychamber.com

■ SAN ANTONIO

203 S. St. Mary's Street,
Suite 200
800.447.3372
www.visitsanantonio.com

■ SHEFFIELD

Iraan-Sheffield Chamber
of Commerce
501 West 6th St.
432.639.2232
www.iraantx.com

■ SUGAR LAND

Fort Bend Chamber of Commerce
445 Commerce Green Blvd.
218.491.0800
www.fortbendchamber.com

■ TYLER

Convention & Visitors Bureau
315 North Broadway
800.235.5712
www.visittyler.com

■ WACO

Convention & Visitors Bureau
P.O. Box 2570
800.321.9226
www.wacocvb.com

■ WEST COLUMBIA

Chamber of Commerce
202 East Brazos Ave.
979.345.3921
www.westcolumbiachamber.com ★

Although the Civil War ended nearly 150 years ago, today's Texas travelers can experience its legacy. Explore historic stone forts, gaze in awe at plantation-era manors, or discover their heritage at museums filled with weapons of war, objects from the home front, and African American artifacts. These places and things remind us of the valor, hope, and sacrifice of all Texans during the conflict.

The THC offers numerous free travel brochures about the people and places that shaped Texas history. To learn more, or to request copies, visit www.thc.state.tx.us.

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
real places telling real stories

www.thc.state.tx.us

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- Front cover:** 1995/6/M31, 306-4040, "Sixth Texas Cavalry Battalion Flag" (background), courtesy of the Texas State Library & Archives Commission, Prints & Photographs Collections, P.O. Box 12927, Austin, Texas 78711-2927 (TSLAC); "Battle of Sabine Pass," Dennis Lyall Illustrations, courtesy of Historic Sites Division, Texas Historical Commission (THC-HSD).
- Page inside cover:** "Seguin on the Guadalupe" (background) - by Sarah Ann Lillie Hardinge, c/o Amon Carter Museum of American Art, Fort Worth, Texas (ACM); 1/136-1, "Sam Houston - wearing duster - daguerreotype portrait" (TSLAC).
- Page 2:** "Seguin on the Guadalupe" (background) - (ACM); 1/134-11-B, "Twiggs Surrender" Ambrotype (TSLAC).
- Page 3:** "Seguin on the Guadalupe" (background) - (ACM); 1912/1-1, "Albert Sidney Johnston" (TSLAC); Text from the Coleman (E.A.) Papers, Pearce Civil War Collection, Navarro College, Corsicana.
- Page 4:** 1/136-1, "Sam Houston - wearing duster - daguerreotype portrait" (TSLAC).
- Page 6:** 1/115-1, "Francis Lubbock" 1860 photo portrait by William DeRyee (TSLAC).
- Page 7:** 2003/1/5-6, "White Bear/Satanta" (TSLAC); Camp at Las Moras Creek, MS362, Box/Folder #73-1313, University of Texas at San Antonio Libraries Special Collections (UTSA-LSC).
- Page 8:** Funeral of German Patriots at Comfort, MS 362, Box/Folder #73-1409 (UTSA-LSC); 1993/202-5-4, "Hanging of Union Men in Texas" Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper (TSLAC).
- Page 10:** Fort Lancaster, MS 362, Box/Folder #073-0323, (UTSA-LSC); "Gen. H.H. Sibley," Library of Congress.
- Page 12:** 1/102-390, "John Bankhead Magruder - albumen cvd portrait" (TSLAC); 1965/36-8, "Rebel attack on the 43rd Massachusetts volunteers at Galveston, Harper's Weekly" (TSLAC); The Fatal Chase by Tom Freeman.
- Page 13:** "Battle of Sabine Pass," Dennis Lyall Illustrations (THC-HSD)
- Page 14:** 1980/10-11, "Brownsville Occupation" (TSLAC)
- Page 15:** 1980/10-4, "War in Texas" (TSLAC); "Santos Benavides," Laredo Public Library; Confederate officers from Lardeo, St. Mary's University Archives, MS 362, Box/Folder #72-3258 (UTSA-LSC); Excerpts from Hispanics and the Civil War: From Battlefield to Homefront, National Park Service (NPS)
- Page 16:** "Lizzie Neblett," D100311- University of Texas at Austin, Center for American History; 2002/1-32-1, "Confederate Women's Home, 1926" photo halftone illustration on p. 46 of Third Report of the State Board of Control, 1924-1926, printed by Von Boeckmann-Jones Co.: Austin, Texas (TSLAC)
- Page 17:** 1980/10-12, "Camp Ford, Texas" sketched by G.W. Simmons Harper's Weekly (TSLAC)
- Page 18:** "Sgt. Patricio Perez," (NPS/Delia Alaniz); IMS 02679 "Soldier next to Horse," (NPS/Gil Cohen).
- Page 20:** 1987/173-23, "Brigadier General E.J. Davis" (TSLAC)
- Page 21:** 5C-June-4.1., "Juneteenth parade, Galveston." June 1995 photo by Kevin Stillman/Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT); 19th House Session; Accession ID: CHA 1989.512; Courtesy State Preservation Board, Austin, Tx, photographer: Victor Hotho, 9/19/95, post conservation; 13th Legislature; Accession ID: CHA 1989.510; Courtesy State Preservation Board, Austin, Tx, photographer: Victor Hotho, 10/19/95, post conservation.
- Page 24:** 3A-RanMon-2., "Terry's Texas Rangers monument, Capitol grounds." August 1987 photo by J. Griffis Smith (TxDOT); 2C-Aus-2.1., "Governor's Mansion." 1995 photo by Gay Shackelford (TxDOT); 2E-FtClark-2., "Fort Clark, Brackettville." 1987 photo by J. Griffis Smith (TxDOT); "Working in the Field" - Levi-Jordan Plantation (THC/Library of Congress)
- Page 25:** "The Sentinel," Freedman's Cemetery Memorial, Dallas, from the THC's brochure, African Americans in Texas: A Lasting Legacy.
- Page 26:** 2E-FtSt-1.1., "Fort Stockton." July 1994 photo by J. Griffis Smith (TxDOT); 14E-FtD-28., "Officers' Row, Fort Davis National Historic Site." April 1991 photo by J. Griffis Smith (TxDOT).
- Page 27:** 2C-Hemp-1.3., "Liendo Plantation, Hemphill." 1993 photo by J. Griffis Smith (TxDOT); 2B-Hill-1.4., "Texas Heritage Museum, Hillsboro." March 2001 photo by Michael A. Murphy (TxDOT).
- Page 28:** 2B-Jeff-1., "Jefferson Historical Museum, Jefferson." Photo by Michael A. Murphy (TxDOT); 2E-FtMas-1c., "Fort Mason, Mason." 1976 photo by Jack Lewis (TxDOT).
- Page 30:** 2B-Sant-2.6., "Institute of Texan Cultures, San Antonio." 1984 photo by Jack Lewis (TxDOT); "Wilson pottery," Seguin-Guadalupe County Heritage Museum, from the THC's brochure, African Americans in Texas: A Lasting Legacy.
- Page 33:** IMS 02675 "Lee on Horse," - (NPS/Gil Cohen)
- Page 34:** Sarah Ann Lillie Hardinge (1824-1913), Wanderer's Retreat. Residence of Mr. J. De-Cordova. 5 miles from Seguin, 1852. Transparent and opaque watercolor over graphite on paper. Gift of Natalie K. Shastid (ACM); Sarah Ann Lillie Hardinge (1824-1913) Mr. Polley's Plantation, Harrie's birth-place., ca. 1856. Transparent and opaque watercolor over graphite on paper. Gift of Natalie K. Shastid (ACM)